

Arlington Historical Commission  
Minutes for the Meeting of  
Tuesday, 3 August 2021  
Remote Participation Meeting, 7:45pm

1. Call to Order: Commissioners Pamela Meister, Eric Stange, Dianne Schaefer, Michael Gervais and Chair, JoAnn Robinson.
2. Review of protocols for remote meetings and hearings.
3. Review of minutes: Minutes reviewed from June 2021 meeting and approved with edits.
4. Historical Commission FY 2022 Budget- Nothing to report.

5. Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

46 Temple Street 2/21 Gervais/Schaefer- Almost complete. Railing not yet installed. Windows look good. Right side of house windows do not have exterior mullions as approved by the Commission. Commissioner Gervais will check in regarding these windows.

6. Discussions and Hearings:

**7:50pm Formal Hearing for 59 Winter Street. Presenters: Robert Annese, lawyer and Remo Politano, owner.**

Proposed exterior changes included installing vinyl siding over entire house, covering all of the existing window trim with aluminum, new gutters and downspouts, changing a door on the north façade into a window and removing the corbels below the eaves to be replaced with faux corbels. No plans are made to change the front porch or existing Mansard slate roof.

Commissioners discussed the proposed changes, questioning the proposed materials and the loss of significant details that represent the historic character of the house.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Gervais moved that the Commission work with Remo Politano to discuss the existing trim and see if it can be saved and to explore other avenues of design for the siding to make it reflect the original siding. This hearing will reconvene in September with more details of what to propose for changes to the exterior of the house. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stange.

A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**8:20 pm. Formal Hearing for 309 Lake Street with homeowner, Diane Wheeler, presenting.**

Proposed plans are to replace 16 casement windows in eight openings on the first floor and one on the second floor with Marvin Ultimate Signature Series Replacement Casement windows, wood with extruded aluminum clad exterior in black. Simulated divided lite with spacers in grid of 3W4H matching current Window style with exterior muntins. Two new Anderson 10 series with a full-view glass door to be installed.

Commissioner Gervais made a motion to accept the plans as presented to replace the windows and storm doors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stange.

A roll call vote was taken. One Commissioner abstained.

All other Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Monitor for this project will be Commissioner Gervais.

**8:40pm Formal Hearing for 29-31 Bartlett Avenue with Douglas Touart, Contractor.**

Proposed plans included replacing all of the windows, primarily with Pella Architect Series wood clad with aluminum exterior. The new windows will be 2 over 2 with vertical divide and exterior muntins.

Commissioner Gervais made a motion to accept the plans as presented and to have the contractor work closely with the monitor regarding the plans for existing casement windows and the window above the front door. Commissioner Meister seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. All voted in favor of the motion.

Monitor for this project will be Commissioner Gervais.

**9:00pm. Formal Hearing for 821 Massachusetts Avenue** Presenters: Robert Annese, Philip Randall, contractor; Monte French, architect; Geoffrey Noyes, owner. Jenny Raitt, Director of Planning and Community Development.

Members of the Community who attended: Cindy Floyd, Susan Ann, Susan Stamps, Michael Ruderman, Richard Duffy, Gary Goldsmith, Kristin Anderson, Don Seltzer, Elisabeth Carr, Alan Jones, Emily R., Emily Snyder, Amy Cohen, John Rogers, Christine Thielman, Wynelle Evans, Lauren Line.

Chair JoAnn Robinson introduced this hearing with history of the house and its former owner Dr. Charles Atwood who lived and housed his medical offices there from 1913-1954. Later other practices were housed at 821 Massachusetts Ave. The house was well preserved when it was Inventoried by the Commission. The current situation is that a demolition without approval by the Historical Commission or the Redevelopment Board has occurred and we are here to determine next steps and options to preserve the house.

Robert Annese presentation:

- Reviewed 2009 ARB decision
- Stated that a mistake had been made and that the owner and contractor are at the mercy of the Commission regarding next steps.

Commissioners comments:

- What efforts have been made to preserve the house?
- At this time the house is unprotected from the elements, animals, intruders.

Monte French, Architect talked about the framing and structure and about a presentation that was given to the ARB.

Jenny Raitt reviewed the 2009 ARB Condition #5 and the 2019 request to homeowner to submit a proposal regarding maintenance and use of the property. The town was unaware of the plans to demolish as no notification was made. Town Counsel sent a letter to the owner regarding multiple by-law violations.

There are two proposals before the Commission tonight.

1. A two-year demolition delay
2. Try to preserve the house by having the siding repaired and windows put back with the Commission's guidance. The Commission needs to be in charge of details and the restoration of these components of the house.

It was determined that the formal hearing will continue in September 7, 2021 meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Meister:

Move that the Atwood House be preferentially preserved and brought back to having its exterior siding repaired and the windows put back and be made tight to the elements and move that the applicant make the diligent and reasonable efforts that he first agreed to in 2009 to preserve the house in the condition it was in 2009. The Tyvek exterior and boarded windows should be in place within one week of this meeting.

Commissioner Stange 2nded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and all voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business: Memorial for Bob Botterio update.

New Business: Commissioner Gervais will be meeting with Christine Bongiorno regarding the condition of the back of the Whittemore Robbins House.

.

The Arlington Historical Commission adjourned at 10:00pm.

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be September 7, 2021 for the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.